

PATHOLOGY OF INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD. By Agnes R. Macgregor, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.C.O.G. (Pp. viii + 631; figs. 388. 75s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1960.

DR. MACGREGOR has devoted almost her entire professional life to the study of the pathology of infancy and childhood and all who know of her work in Edinburgh have the greatest admiration and respect for her integrity and for her views. This book has been long awaited and is a major contribution to pathological literature.

The first part deals with pathology of the foetal and neonatal period and the second with developmental malformations, and these sections, representing aspects still very poorly discussed in standard textbooks of pathology, make up more than one-third of the book. Other parts deal with infective diseases, rheumatic, "collagen," and allergic diseases, metabolic and nutritional disturbances, injuries and poisoning, neoplasms and diseases of the blood. All conditions likely to be encountered in paediatric practice in this country are clearly presented, though details of rare conditions of the nervous system, blood, and skin will be sought in detailed general textbooks on these subjects.

The approach is the traditional one of Scottish pathology with emphasis almost entirely on anatomical changes, both gross and microscopical. On almost every page the careful reader will find some sentence or some phrasing which will show that the author is writing from very real experience, and certainly this is no digest of the literature, but is experience refined over the years. There are numerous references, but the book is too much the author's own to deal really critically with the literature.

A purely anatomical approach has great value but it is not the whole of pathology which must increasingly attempt explanations in terms of disturbed function. Even on a descriptive basis it is sometimes lacking though it is at its best in descriptions of congenital anomalies and tumours. It tends to result in a series of notes rather than a systematic study, and, in such chapters as that on the placenta, the failure to attempt an integration of modern physiological and histological research with the pathological findings is especially disappointing. There it has resulted in a chapter containing nothing which might not appear in a student's textbook of midwifery.

For the pathologist, and especially for the hospital pathologist, this is an indispensable companion. The clinician will find it difficult but rewarding reading, but he may think it somewhat disjointed and lacking in a broad basic approach to the problem of disease.

J. E. M.

SURGERY AND CLINICAL PATHOLOGY IN THE TROPICS. By Charles Bowesman, O.B.E., B.A., M.D., F.R.C.S.E., F.A.C.S., D.T.M. & H.Ed. (Pp. viii + 1068; figs. 321. 110s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1960.

THIS book should be available to all in practice in the tropics. It is not a specialised textbook written for those working in large centres but for those who are physician, surgeon, and obstetrician in country stations. It is based on the author's experience chiefly in West Africa. It is not an orderly presentation. The classifications and discussions are sometimes incomplete. It is, what the author says, a series of essays on situations and subjects as they occur in clinical practice. It gives considerable detail where procedures must be adopted for conditions in the tropics, and about conditions peculiar to the tropics. Much practical advice on all kinds of topics, ranging from the care of rubber instruments to operations unusual outside the tropics, is given.

Many not practising in the tropics will also read the book with interest. Those, who in the words of Wilfred Trotter require "a profession in which it is possible for people to pursue the dying idea that an occupation for adults should allow of intellectual freedom, should give character as much chance as cleverness, and should be subject to the tonic of difficulty and the spice of danger," will read it with special interest, and, despite the wind of change in Africa and throughout the world, may be attracted to work abroad.